

Mistaken Identity:

The differences between mosquitoes and impersonating insects.



The Mosquito

The mosquito is the most dangerous vector worldwide! It will bite and possibly transmit diseases to its victims. The mosquito can carry and may transmit diseases including West Nile virus, encephalitis, and Malaria.

The mosquito can be identified by the following traits:

- Measures approx. 1/4 - 1/2 inch in length
- Has wings longer than its body
- Ranges in color depending on species; many are brown
- Breeds in stagnant water

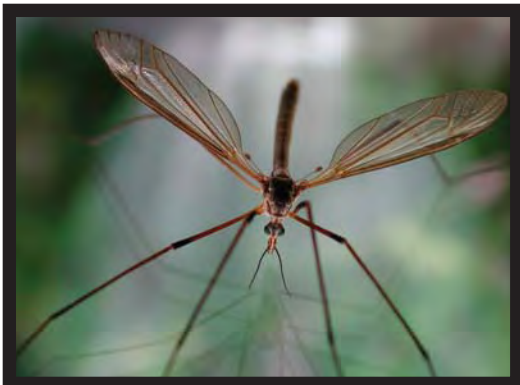


The Midge

While the midge is similar in size to the mosquito, it cannot bite. This bug is an annoyance, but will not harm humans. The midge does not carry diseases.

The midge can be identified by the following traits:

- Measures approx. 1/8 - 1/2 inch in length
- Has wings shorter than its body
- Looks light green to brown in color
- Breeds in mud at the bottom of water sources

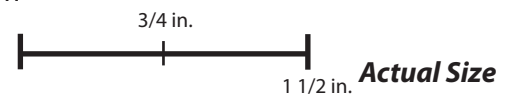


The Common Crane Fly

The common crane fly poses no threat to humans once in adult form, but may eat vegetation in the larval stage. These bugs will never bite humans, nor do they carry diseases.

The crane fly can be identified by the following traits:

- Measures approx. 3/4 - 1 1/2 inches in length with a V-shaped abdomen
- Has wings longer than its body
- Most appear light brown in color
- Breeds in vegetation



The Black Fly

The black fly is a menace, and it can sometimes bite an unsuspecting victim; these painful bites may itch and hurt. The black fly does not transmit diseases in the U.S.

The black fly can be identified by the following traits:

- Measures 1/8 - 1/4 inch in length with a hunched-back appearance
- Has wings longer than its body
- Ranges in color from light to dark gray
- Breeds in flowing water sources

